Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Newsletter

February Meeting

Tue 4-Feb-2020, 7:30-10:00pm
Oaklands Museum, Moulsham Street

OAS & Portable Operation

By Dave Cutts M0TAZ

The February meeting will see Dave Cutts M0TAZ return to CARS, this time with a double bill.

Dave will start with a brief overview of the new RSGB OAS, the Operating Advisory Service, for which Dave is the local Region-12 Advisor.

His main talk will be about portable operating - but with a few differences...

Most portable is modest power/antennas. However Dave has extended the envelope somewhat!

So do pop along for another set of entertaining and insightful presentations.

The famous CARS Raffle also features.

Inside: CARS at Canvey Rally and new Activity Nights

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Club Diary

Sun 2-Feb-2020	35th Canvey Rally – CARS will be there!	Cornelius Vermuyden School, Dinant Ave, SS8 9QS
Tue 4-Feb-2020	Portable Operation and OAS, talks	Chelmsford – Oaklands Museum, 7:30pm
Mon 17-Feb-2020	Essex Activity Night - (ne Skills Night)	Danbury Village Hall 7pm

Club Nets

CARS meets for talks/events on the first Tuesday of the month. The subsequent Tuesdays have club radio nets as follows:-

- **2nd Tuesday in the Month – VHF**
  The CARS VHF FM Net uses GB3DA from Danbury starting at 8pm (local).
  GB3DA is 145.125MHz Input and 145.725MHz Output - and CTCSS-only (110.9Hz), 2min timeout
  If for any reason GB3DA is not available then 145.375 Simplex will be used. Vertical aerials are best for this
- **3rd Tuesday in the Month - UHF**
  The CARS UHF FM Net uses GB3ER from Danbury and starting at 8pm (local).
  GB3ER is 434.675MHz Input and 433.075MHz Output - and is CTCSS-only
  Vertical aerials are best.
- **4th Tuesday in the Month - HF**
  The CARS 80m Net on "3756kHz" Night, SSB and starting at 8pm (local).
  Horizontal aerials are best. The idea is to enable distant CARS Members to join the Net.
- **5th Tuesday in the Month (when there is one!) - MF**
  This is the CARS Top Band Net on 1947/1950 kHz +/-QRM, LSB and starting at 8pm (local).
  Horizontal aerials are usually used for this Net. A reminder - limit your power to a max of 30 Watts, please.

Training & Morse Classes

CARS has been busy preparing for the new 2020 Foundation courses which are initially in a shorter (and cheaper!) fast track format.

Our February course is now fully booked and about to commence, whilst places remain for the next one which starts in April.

If you are interested in these or other opportunities, please contact **John O'Connell M0JOC** our training coordinator and Exam Secretary

John can be contacted via training2020@g0mwt.org.uk or 07868-004380

More info including dates and other updates are at: www.g0mwt.org.uk/training

Follow @TrainWithCARS

January Meeting: HF Propagation

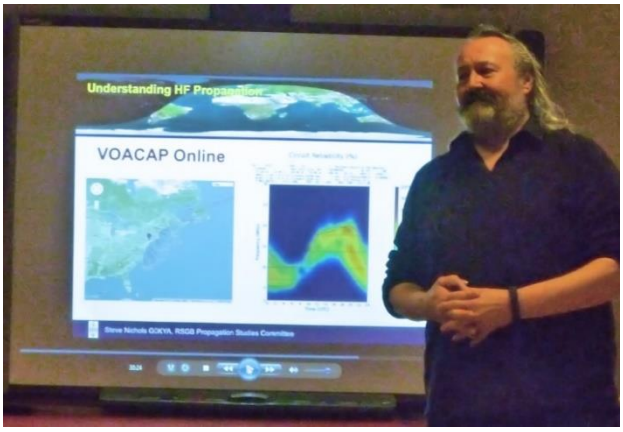
Early January is often an awkward slot to get speakers to travel. This year RSGB Propagation Chairman Steve Nichols G0KYA kindly made available new copies of a pair of talks he had pre-recorded complete with extensive audio commentary and show notes.

So the new year began with an beautifully crafted HF talk which was ably introduced and compèred by Chris Chapman G0IPU, complete with interactive Q+A at key points thru the show.

The novel format worked particularly well on the room projector and audio system.

Colin G0TRM plans to feature the shorter VHF talk as one of the '3 Short Talks' later this year

The accompanying notes had lots of links for further information including these:-



Space Weather

- www.solarham.com
- www.swpc.noaa.gov

Propagation News

- http://rsgb.org/main/news/gb2rs/propagation-news/

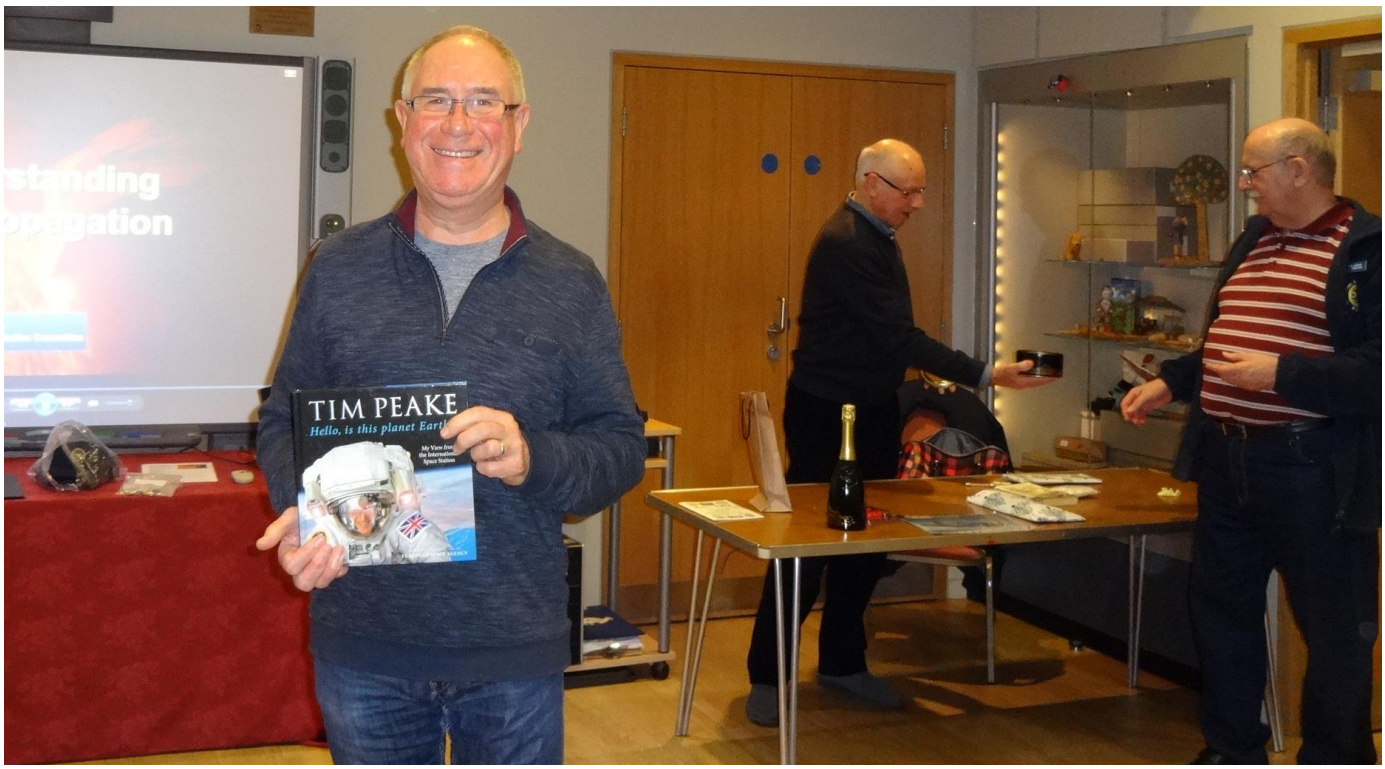
Ionosondes

- http://car.uml.edu/common/DIDBFastStationList
- http://www.ukssdc.ac.uk/ionosondes/
- http://g0kya.blogspot.co.uk/2011/02/ionospheric-sounding-and-digisondes.html

Prediction Tools

- Propquest: www.rsgb.org/propquest - real-time MUFs
- Predtest: www.rsgb.org/predtest - path probabilities for different modes - by Gwyn G4FKH
- VOACap: www.rsgb.org/voacap - propagation to 28 global locations, as used for RadCom
- Proppy: www.rsgb.org/proppy - uses the latest ITURHFPPROP tool for the same 28 locations

And then after the break was the raffle…



Some of our happy Raffle Winners (Photos by Colin G0TRM)

Canvey Rally Sunday 2nd February

Canvey Rally at its new'ish venue of Cornelius Vermuyden School, Dinant Avenue, was blessed with mild weather and a good turnout. CARS had booked two tables and did well.

Thanks to Tom 2E0EUM - a bartering expert, we had a laugh all day manning the tables Our thanks also to Tony G4YTG for a large amount of donated kit, most of which sold. A special word also for Elliott M0JBY, for keeping us supplied with brews ;-)

Punters waiting for the formal opening at 10am

Inside the large hall. Overall there are two halls and a refreshments area

John M0JOC and Tom 2E0EUM on the CARS table

Note: The clubs own event, the CARS Tabletop Sale, is currently being considered for Danbury in June

New: Essex Activity Nights (ne Skills)

Following many successful years of running Essex Skills Night, the latest incarnation from the refreshed CARS team has been rebranded from Skills, to **Activity Nights**

The usual venue and timing are being retained on the third Monday in the month at Danbury Village Hall.

For the moment three are planned for:-

- **Monday February 17th**
- **Monday March 16th**
- **Monday April 20th**

Demonstrations planned so far for the February event include:

- Essex CW - with two tables for a live CW station and a Contest demo. (Dean G4WQI et al)
- Connectors / coax? - Tom 2E0EU will have tables for patch cables, with solder station etc
- Ian M0LZI will have a Wires-X/C4FM setup using an Openspot

So if you want to get hands on or offer a demo of your own – make it a date and get in touch – or just pop along for what is always a good social occasion too

Ian Duxbury M0LZI is leading the event coordination, along with John M0JOC and Andy G0IBN

PS If you want to look back at Essex Skills Nights run by the CARS Training Team over many years, the place with the full illustrated story is in the dozens of reports here **http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/skills/**

Training in 2020

Our February course will soon be underway, so make sure you bear in mind our future dates in April along with slots in July and December for the Full or other exams. The current key dates are:

- **Foundation Course 41F:** Apr 9th, 16th, 23rd - fast-track practical's revision, mock and exam
- **Summer:** July 9th prep and 16th Full Exam slot
- **Winter:** Nov-26th prep and 3rd December Full Exam slot

Further dates (including for the autumn) will be confirmed in due course

John O'Connell, M0JOC is the CARS Training Coordinator / Exam Secretary
Those wishing to book a place should contact him by . . .
M: 07868-004380
E: training2020 at g0mwt.org.uk

Question Time

Q1) Scottish amateur Angus McDonald MM0ABC is on holiday on a cruise ship in the Solent where he plans to operate from. What should his on-air callsign be whilst on the boat?

A) MM0ABC/MM

B) MM0ABC/M

C) M0ABC/MM

D) M0ABC/M

Q2) Europe: Who has more licensed amateurs – UK or Germany?

Q3) What is Top band (1.8 MHz) ?

A) VLF

B) LF

C) MF

D) HF

Q3) Where will you find this in your amateur licence?

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